



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
THREE FELONS INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Sedalia, Mo., man and two Kansas City, Mo., men were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for being felons in possession of firearms. Today's indictments are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Shawn R. Hudgens**, 24, of Kansas City, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Hudgens** was in possession of a Smith and Wesson 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Oct. 2, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hudgens** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Kenneth W. Ray**, 34, of Sedalia, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Ray** was in possession of a .38-caliber revolver on Oct. 14, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Ray** has a total of 10 previous criminal felony convictions including burglary, stealing and robbery.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was

investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Marcus J. Ware**, 25, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Ware** was in possession of a Bryco Arms 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Oct. 11, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Ware** has two 2001 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and unlawful use of a weapon.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelson. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments are simply accusations and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow